

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT  
OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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1894.



# TO THE YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MARTOCK, FEBRUARY, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the Sanitary Condition of the district of the Yeovil Rural Council, and to direct your attention to circumstances affecting the public health and to the action taken thereon.

The Tables (A. & B.) of sickness and mortality will be found herewith.

The total number of deaths from all causes is 261.

The number of deaths attributable to the 7 principle zymotic diseases is 10—that is to say, Whooping Cough 4, Scarlatina 1 ; Diphtheria 1 ; Membranous Croup 1 ; Enteric Fever 1 ; Puerperal Fever 1 ; Diarrhœa 1.

The general death rate per 1000 population is 14·29. It is satisfactory to note that this is lower than the death rate of any year since 1882.

The death rate from zymotic disease is ·54 per thousand population.

Four hundred and seventy-eight births were registered—a number less than in any year since 1885.

Deaths of infants under one year of age 56. The infantile death rate per 1000 births being 117·15.

Sixty-two cases have been notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

The annexed table (C) shows the Birth rate and also statistics of mortality during the past 5 years (1894 inclusive.)

SMALL POX.—In the month of May some anxiety arose in consequence of a convalescent from small-pox having come into the district. I at once communicated with the Medical Officer of Health acting for the district





from whence the person came. He gave me the date and circumstances of the illness and an account of the precautions used. In his opinion with which I concurred there was no danger of infection in this case and the slight scare was at an end.

SCARLATINA.—Thirty cases have been notified, being the lowest number in any year since the adoption of notification.

Year.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
1890.	62		84	57	... 203
1891.	1	7	16	47	... 71
1892.	8	7	20	8	... 43
1893.	5	27	22	56	... 110
1894.	10	3	15	2	... 30

From the Martock Registration District 18 cases were notified—4 of which occurred in one family at Stapleton Highway—3 cases in different families in Martock proper : 1 at Ash, 1 at Tintinhull, 3 at Montacute (2 in one house), 6 at Stoke-sub-Hamdon all in different families. In the year 1893, 64 cases were notified from the Martock Registration District. 9 cases were notified from the Coker Registration District against 6 cases in 1893. 3 cases were notified from the South Petherton Registration District against 34 in 1893. Not a single case was notified from that portion of the Yeovil Registration District within the Yeovil Rural Council District, but 6 cases were notified in 1893. The disease has been of a mild character, fatal in one instance only viz. in the Coker district. At intervals and without traceable sources of infection the disease appeared in different localities. I have again this year had to forbid gloving-work being done in an infected dwelling by those accustomed to work at home. I have particularly noticed an increased intelligence with regard to the subject of infection and instead of the former hostility to restrictions there is now generally a willing co-operation. Though not universal, there is a change for the better, which is possibly due to the visits and personal instruction of the Sanitary officers. In my last annual report I remarked on the absence of any disinfecting apparatus and of an isolation hospital. I am quite aware of the great utility of such auxiliaries in preventing the spread of infectious disease but I am not sure that they, especially the latter, would be of great practical service the difficulties of application being great in so scattered a district. At the same time I shall be glad to avail myself to





the fullest extent of these means for the use of the district should they be placed at my disposal by the Council.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Three cases were notified—1 from Martock Registration District ; 1 from Coker Registration District ; 1 from South Petherton Registration District respectively. The case referred to as in the Martock Registration District occurred at Castle Dairy House, Stoke-sub-Hamdon. Another child of the same family in the same house died about the same time the death being registered as due to accute laryngitis. The probability is that in these the disease was identical. I reported on the occurrence of the disease and on the local sanitary defects which may have contributed thereto ; on analysis the drinking water was found to be impure, polluted with sewage and unfit for dietetic use. Probably the disease was of local origin as the dwelling was isolated and I was unable to discover in the immediate neighbourhood any trace of throat affections amongst children such as might have been “ minor ” cases of diphtheria not recognised or treated as such but capable of inducing a more severe form of disease in others. In 1890 1 case ; 1891 1 case ; 1892 3 cases ; 1893 10 cases were notified.

**MEMBRANOUS CROUP.**—1 case (recovery) at Stoke-sub-Hamdon was notified. One death registered as “Croup 4 days” in the Coker District is included in Table A under the head of membranous croup. In 1890 3 cases ; 1891 1 case ; 1892 1 case ; 1893 1 case. I have in a former report stated my own opinion, for as much as it is worth, that membranous croup and diphtheria should be included under the same heading as one and the same disease differing only as to the site in which the membranous exudation is developed in individual cases.

**TYPHOID (Enteric) FEVER.**—Three cases were notified—1 at Ilchester (recovery) ; 1 at Stoke-sub-Hamdon (recovery) ; 1 at Stapleton, Martock (fatal.) The fatal case at Martock was that of a young workman who was sent home ill from Swanage where the disease was undoubtedly contracted. Every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of disease and with a good result.

**CONTINUED FEVER.**—No case has occurred during the year 1894. In 1890 2 cases ; 1891 1 case ; 1892 8 cases ; 1893 8 cases were notified.

**PUERPERAL FEVER.**—1 case at Stoke-sub-Hamdon.





ERYSIPELAS.—Number of cases notified.

Year.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.		Total
1890	1	0	0	6	...	7
1891	11	2	1	1	...	15
1892	6	4	5	5	...	20
1893	1	4	5	26	...	36
1894	14	4	2	4	...	24

There is a remarkable increase of this disease, but it is satisfactory to notice a decrease in 1894, also that the type of disease has been of a mild character. One fatal case (infantile) occurred in 1894.

MEASLES.—There are no means of ascertaining the number of cases, the disease not being notifiable. In consequence of prevalence of the disease, the schools at Yeovilton & Chilton Cantelo were closed with my certificate.

DIARRHŒA, has not been unduly prevalent or of a severe character. One child aged 4 years died, diarrhœa being the only symptom and apparent cause. In consequence of notice from the Local Government Board my opinion was required as to the desirability of adding this to the list of notifiable diseases. After careful consideration of the reasons set forth in the letter of the Local Government Board of the former local statistics of the disease, and with a sense of my responsibility I ventured to advise that for the present such course was unnecessary.

MUMPS.—On account of the prevalence of this disease the schools at Chinnock were closed with my certificate.

PHTHISIS.—The number of deaths registered under this heading is 9. It is most satisfactory to notice that this disease, to whatever cause attributable, has diminished in mortality in this district. The favourable aspect seems more than accidental. During the 15 years preceding 1894 the mean average of deaths from this cause was rather over 25 per annum; the lowest number during that period being 16 in 1891, and the highest number 36 in 1879. It is possible to hope that improvement in Sanitation, in the food and dwellings of the working classes may have contributed to decrease the mortality from this as from other diseases. To a health officer the better housing of the working classes, including as it must pure air and pure water, is an all-important subject, the main factor in the maintenance of public health.



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It is with pleasure that I am able so far to report favourably of the district. The work done during the year, though not resulting in works of magnitude, has in the multifarious duties of your officers engrossed much time and attention and amounted to much in the aggregate, and has I trust, been of service to the public.

In former reports I have adverted to the necessity for an efficient system for removal and disposal of sewage at Martock, Ash, and Stoke-sub-Hamdon ; my remarks still apply ; the evils in each case respectively, being still in existence. During the year I called attention to the state of North Street, Martock, dangerous to the public health from this cause. Some slight temporary remedy was used for the abatement of what was an injurious and offensive nuisance, the recurrence of which in an aggravated form is only a question of time and season. The vent of sewer gas into the open street has been checked only to facilitate its invasion of the dwellings through the ill-constructed drains.

Ash, from its position, presents no difficulty to a simple system of drainage which is urgently needed.

At Stoke-sub-Hamdon a scheme for removal and disposal of sewage is, I understand, still under consideration ; this question should include the water supply also.

The Martock water supply has been extended to the hamlet of Coat and will be a great boon to the inhabitants.

Annexed is the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. DIXON ADAMS, M.D.

*Medical Officer of Health*

*Yeovil Rural District Council.*





## SUMMARY OF TABLE A.

### Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages

Under 1 year	...	...	...	56
1 and under 5	...	...	...	12
5 „ „ 15	...	...	...	8
15 „ „ 25	...	...	...	5
25 „ „ 65	...	...	...	90
65 and upwards	...	...	...	90
At all ages	...	...	...	261

Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.

				Under 5	5 and upwards	At all ages.
Scarlatina	...	...	...	1	0	1.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	0	1.
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	0	1	1.
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0	1	1.
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	0	1	1.
Erysipelas	...	...	..	1	0	1.
Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3	1	4.
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	1	0	1.
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0.
Phthisis	...	...	...	0	9	9.
Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy				14	28	42.
Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	34	37.
Injuries	...	...	...	1	7	8.
All other diseases	...	...	...	43	111	154.
Total	...	...	...	<hr/> 68	<hr/> 193	<hr/> 261.





# SUMMARY OF TABLE B.

Martock	...	...	Population	1891	5988.	Births in 1894	176.
Coker	...	...	"	"	5416.	" " "	125.
South Petherton	...	...	"	"	3050.	" " "	76.
Yeovil Rural	...	...	"	"	3800.	" " "	101.
Total	...	...	"	"	18254.	" " "	478.

New Cases of Infectious sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

			Martock.	Coker.	S. Petherton.	Yeovil Rural.	Total.
Scarlatina	...	...	18	9	3	0	30.
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	1	0	3.
Membranous Croup			1	0	0	0	1.
Enteric Fever	...		2	0	0	1	3.
Puerperal Fever	...		1	0	0	0	1.
Erysipelas	...	...	15	5	3	1	24.



## C.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE PAST  
SEVEN YEARS.

	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Births.....	516	540	481	497	495	496	478
Deaths .....	294	303	332	313	338	264	261
Deaths from Zymotic Disease .....	14	25	60	24	5	22	10
Infantile Deaths(under 1 year) .....	56	63	49	54	63	46	56
Population.....	19,215	19,215	19,215	18,254	18,254	18,254	18,254
Birth Rate per 1000 population .....	26·85	28·103	25·0	27·2	27·11	27·172	26·186
Death Rate per 1000 population .....	15·3	15·76	16·7	17·14	18·51	14·402	14·29
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000 population	·728	1·3	3·1	1·36	·273	1·2	·547
Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births ...	108·52	116·6·	101·0	112·69	127·27	92·741	117·154





# YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1894.

Parishes.	Houses.						Water.						Privies.						Pig Stys.			Drainage.			Vaults &c				
	Certifs. Granted.	Overcrowded.	Repaired.	Closed.	Disinfected.	Cleansed.	Analysed.	New Wells.	Wells Deepened.	Wells Cleansed.	Wells Closed.	Pumps Repaired.	Mains Extended †	New.		New Vaults.	New Covers.	New Pails.	Repaired.	W.C.'s.		Removed.	Drained.	New.	New.	Improved.	Cleansed.	Cleansed.	Totals.
														With Vaults.	With Pails.					New.	New Pans.								
ASHINGTON ... ..										1						2											1	4	
BARWICK ... ..		1				2				1				1		3						1			1	4	2	7	23
BRYMPTON ... ..																													
CHILTHORNE ... ..										1				1		1			2						2	2	1	3	13
CHILTON CANTELO																										3	1	4	8
CHISELBOROUGH ...		1												2	3			6	2			1				2		5	22
CLOSWORTH... ..																3		3								1			7
EAST CHINNOCK ...			3		3	3									1	3		5	1						1	4		2	26
EAST COKER... ..	1			2	3	3								5	1	7	6	3	6			1			5	7	3	9	62
HARDINGTON ... ..	1						1		1							7		1	4			1			1	4	3	3	27
HASELBURY... ..					1	1				1					2	1	3	1	3						1	1	4	8	27
ILCHESTER ... ..												1		5		10			5						4	4	1	3	33
LIMINGTON ... ..			1											2	3	1	2	3	3								1	7	23
LUFTON ... ..		1																	1			1				1			4
MARTOCK ... ..	1	3	3	1			2	2		2		1	†	6		19	4	2	13		3	2	1		7	13	9	34	128
MONTACUTE ... ..	3			1			1			1		1							2									4	13
MUDFORD ... ..																											1	2	3
NORTHOVER ... ..											1								1									1	3
NORTH PERROTT ...																3			2							2		2	9
NORTON ... ..		2											†			2		3	1	1	1				3	6	2	10	31
ODCOMBE ... ..	1													1	1				5						1	4	1		14
PENDOMER ... ..																1										1		2	4
PRESTON ... ..														1		1	2								2			5	11
PODYMORE ... ..																			1						1		1	5	8
SOCK DENNIS ... ..																													
SOUTH PETHERTON	5		5	1	3	1				2				1		13			6	1					6	16	3	12	75
STOKE ... ..	3				2	1	8	3	1	1				1		1			6		6	1				11	3	9	57
SUTTON BINGHAM					1		1																						2
THORNE ... ..												1										1	1	1					4
TINTINHULL ... ..										1							1	4	5						1	2	1	6	21
WEST CAMEL ... ..								1								1													2
WEST CHINNOCK ...	1		2					1						7		1										1	2	2	17
WEST COKER ... ..		2	3							1						8	1	2	4				3		7	10	5	13	59
YEOVILTON ... ..			3											2		6			1							2	1	4	19
YEOVIL ... ..										4				1		1		1	1			1	2	1	5	2	1	4	24
Totals ... ..	16	10	20	5	13	11	12	8	1	17	1	4		36	11	95	19	34	75	2	10	8	9	2	48	103	46	167	783

The above contains the concluding portion of the result of the House to House Inspection.











The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. See Note 5 on back.

[illegible]



# NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

- NOTE 1. Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.
- Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.
  - The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.
  - The "Localities" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

- The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.

Area and Population of the District  
or Division to which this Return  
relates.

Area in Acres

48700

Population (1891)

8254

Death Rates.

General

Infant

14.29

117.15

{ per 1,000 Population.

{ Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

James Thomas Medical Officer of Health.

(Date) February, 1895.



**TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,** coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Yeovil Rural District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.  (See Note 2 on back of sheet.)  (a.)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.  (d.)	Aged under 5 or over 5.  (e.)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
	Census 1891.  (b.)	Estimated to middle of 1894.  (c.)			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	FEVERS.				Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	FEVERS.				Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District Yes. Since when? June 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which each Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated. No Isolation Hospital



# NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

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Area and Population of the District  
or Division to which this Return  
relates.

Area in Acres 48700